

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 2-5 are pending. By this Amendment, Claim 1 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 2 -5 are placed in independent form by adding to each claim the subject matter recited in Claim 1.

With respect to Claim 3, the recitation of the operating portion and the display portion of the remote control unit are referred to as the first operating portion and the first display portion. In addition, the operating portion and the display portion of the sphygmomanometer body portion are referred to as the second operating portion and the second display portion. These changes are made solely to improve the claim wording and recite in a different manner that which was intended by the original claim wording. The changes are not intended to narrow the claim scope.

The Office Action objects to Claim 2. Claim 2 is amended to correct the issue regarding antecedent basis.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,344,025 to Inagaki et al., claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0187484 to Sano and claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sano et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,251,080 to Henkin et al.

With respect to the rejection based on Sano, it is noted that this application was filed under 35 U.S.C. § 371 as a U.S. national stage application based on International Application No. PCT/JP2005/001182 filed on January 28, 2005. As such, this application is at least entitled to the January 28, 2005 international

application filing date. This January 28, 2005 filing date precedes the February 22, 2005 filing date of Sano. Thus, Sano does not qualify as prior art against the claims of the present application.

For at least this reason, claims 2-5 are patentable over Sano.

As a final matter, this application claims priority to Japanese Application No. 2004-027107 filed on February 3, 2004 and Japanese Application No. 2004-115794 filed on February 9, 2004. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge the priority claim to these two applications in the next official communication.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

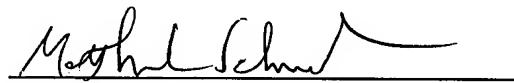
Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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